

ROUTING

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday 6 May 1978

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, 6 May 1978.

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The NID cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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NAMIBIA: SWAPO Maintains a Hard Line

25X1 [] The leader of the South-West Africa People's Organization, Sam Nujoma, yesterday condemned the South African incursion into Angola but said he was still willing to meet with the Western five-power contact group in New York on Monday to discuss their proposals for bringing independence to Namibia. SWAPO, however, has shown few signs that it is prepared to modify the hard-line position it has taken in recent weeks. Nujoma doubtless plans to cite the South African incursion and the detention last week of more SWAPO members in Namibia as further justification for seeking changes in the Western proposals.

25X1 [] Nujoma does not believe South Africa intends to withdraw its military forces from Namibia, to relinquish its claim of sovereignty over Walvis Bay, or to grant the UN a principal role in the transition process. Nujoma doubts an independent Namibian government would be strong enough to obtain a satisfactory settlement on Walvis Bay. He maintains that SWAPO needs written assurance, preferably in the form of a UN Security Council resolution, before it would be willing to compromise on the Walvis Bay issue.

25X1 [] The SWAPO leadership is seeking to resolve these and several other outstanding issues in the talks. Nujoma, three other members of the exiled leadership, and Daniel Tjongarero, the leader of the internal wing, are in New York. Four other representatives of SWAPO may be bringing new guidelines from Lusaka. It is unlikely the SWAPO leaders would make any major concessions before returning to Lusaka to consult with the entire executive committee.

25X1 [] The contact group has stated that its proposals are no longer negotiable--particularly now that they have been accepted by South Africa. In the hope of accommodating SWAPO, however, the five Western powers have said they are willing to clarify various aspects of the proposals. The Western group is also willing to discuss the status of Walvis Bay; it did not specifically address this issue in its proposals.

25X1 [] Nujoma probably believes that he is in a good position to bargain. On Wednesday, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution that calls for South Africa's unconditional withdrawal from Namibia and supports SWAPO's claim to Walvis Bay.

[REDACTED]

The resolution also urged the Security Council to consider imposing economic sanctions on South Africa. Most representatives at the UN expressed support for SWAPO during the debate.

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[REDACTED] Angolan Foreign Minister Jorge delivered one of the strongest statements. He declared that Angola would provide SWAPO with all the support it needs to continue the liberation struggle. The Soviet representative also took an unconciliatory line; he warned of "dangerous maneuvers of those countries" proposing a settlement for selfish reasons.

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[REDACTED] Because SWAPO depends on the USSR and Angola for material support and sanctuary, these countries undoubtedly are able to exert considerable influence over SWAPO. So long as Nujoma is confident of their continuing support, he probably will pay little attention to the other states--led by Nigeria and Tanzania--that have urged him to be more flexible.

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[REDACTED] Nujoma insists that he will not consider a cease-fire until agreement is reached on all aspects of the proposal and the South African - appointed Administrator General for Namibia stops detaining SWAPO personnel in Namibia. Last week, the South Africans detained 12 SWAPO members, including three officials of the executive committee. SWAPO claims that the South Africans have arrested 29 of its members in Namibia and that five other leaders have fled the territory for safety.

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED] SWAPO's political activities have virtually halted as a result of the recent detentions. The South Africans assert that the detentions are justified by the continuing violence in the territory.

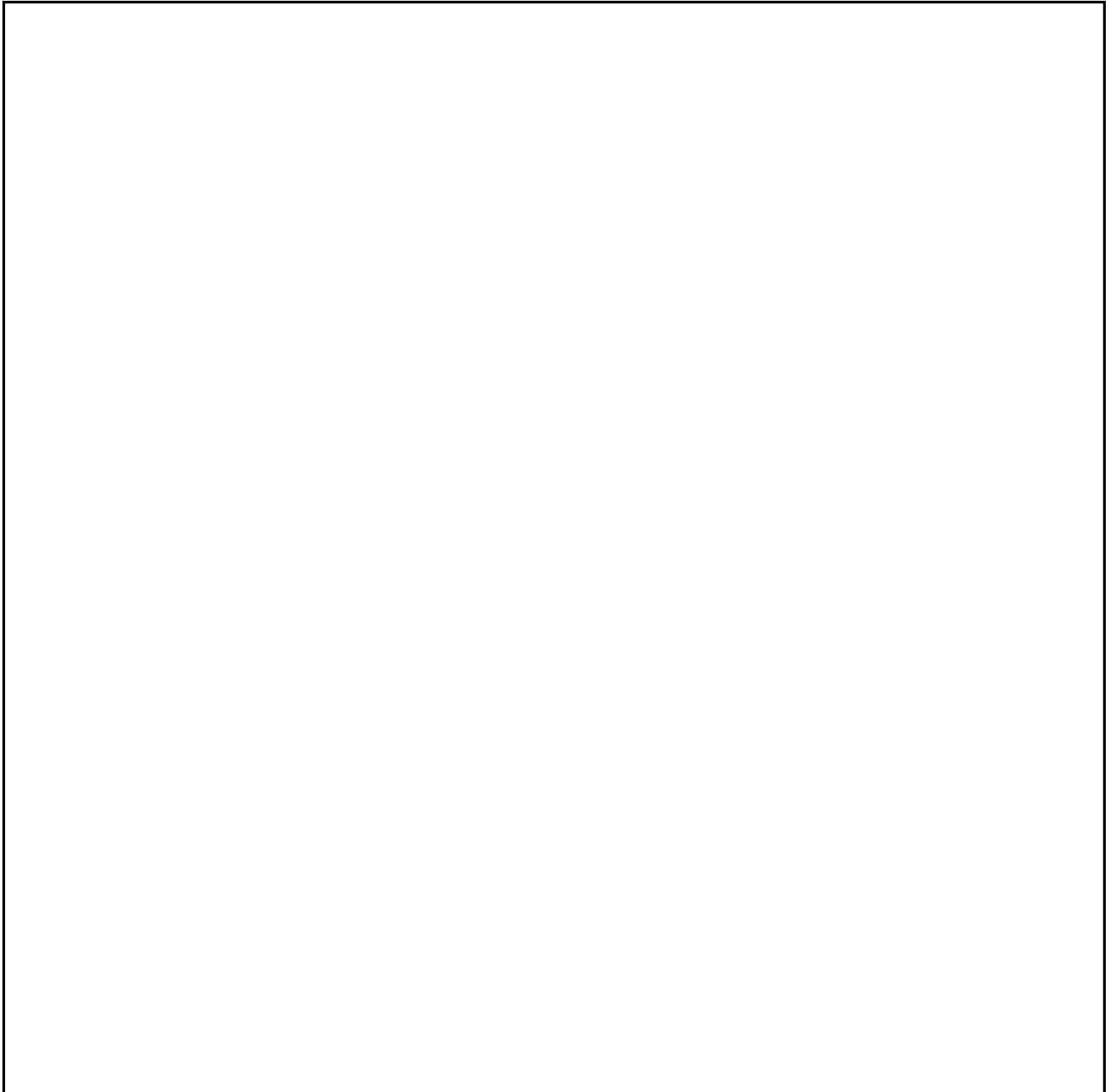
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[REDACTED] The South Africans have privately told a Western envoy they have arrested two suspects in the assassination of Chief Clemens Kapuuo. The two men reportedly admitted to being part of a group of five assassins sent into Namibia from Angola under orders from the SWAPO central committee. The South Africans say they have delayed announcing the arrests until they apprehend the other three suspects. [REDACTED]

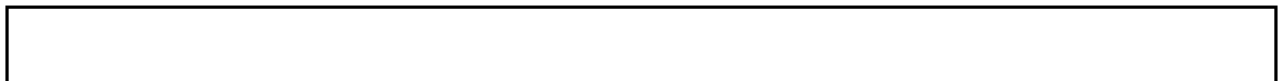
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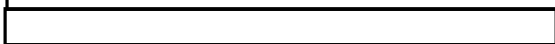


NIGERIA: Domestic Developments

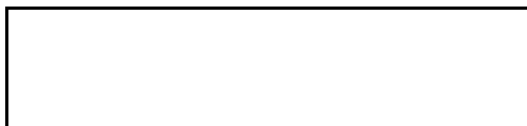
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The government has also promised



again that it will restore civilian rule next year, and the constituent assembly may complete its review of a new constitution by mid-June. Students throughout the country are now outwardly quiet. Basic problems still confront the regime, and the potential for sporadic student disorder and military plotting remains.//

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25X1 [] All but one of Nigeria's universities are closed. Rioting inspired by secondary-school students erupted on 28 April in Lagos and resulted in several deaths and 52 arrests. Lesser disturbances took place early this week in a city north of Lagos. The students and the government remain far apart on basic issues, and popular sympathy for students may be eroding.

25X1 [] Despite public skepticism and a feeling that scapegoats are being hunted, the regime is pushing its contention--at the risk of generating more ill-will--that students were manipulated by elements bent on overthrowing the government, in part to forestall civil rule. The government has reiterated its determination to restore civilian rule as scheduled.

25X1 [] A threatened strike by the national teachers' union has not materialized, but workers of a construction firm in Lagos demonstrated Monday over a pay issue affecting all Nigerian workers. The Labor Ministry thought it had settled this issue last week; one official said the settlement prevented a nationwide strike. On Monday, officials of Nigeria's central labor organization appealed to workers to exercise restraint and to continue negotiations with the government and employers.

25X1 [] The constituent assembly--according to one report--may complete its review of Nigeria's new constitution by mid-June. Muslim delegates may try, however, to reopen their controversial proposal for a federal Islamic court of appeals which non-Muslim southerners and minority tribesmen from the

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north had earlier rejected. A proposal for a more explicit guarantee of press freedom was defeated, in part because of lingering bitterness over the court issue. The only remaining contentious point is a formula for allocating revenues among Nigeria's 19 states.

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[] Rumors among civilians of military plotting and a possible coup this month are making the rounds in Ibadan, the headquarters of one of the army's four divisions. The US Consul there reports some unhappiness among middle grade officers with recent actions of the regime, but we have no reports of active plotting.

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WESTERN EUROPE: Political Union

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[] //Ten West European conservative parties late last month formed the European Democratic Union as a counter to their better organized socialist rivals and in preparation for the direct elections to the European Parliament beginning in June 1979. The Union terms itself a working association of noncollectivist parties committed to preserving an open, pluralistic political society and a market economy in Western Europe.//

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[] //The Union consists of Britain's Tories--who have long sought such a European association--the Gaullists in France, the West German Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party, and conservative parties in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden. Parties supporting French President Giscard and Spanish Prime Minister Suarez are among eight additional parties associated with the Union as observers.//

25X1 [] //Notably absent from the Union's founding session were the Christian Democratic parties of Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg, each of which is hesitant to make common cause with conservatives--such as the Tories--who scorn the idea of right-left collaboration in government. They belong instead to the European People's Party, founded in 1976 as a formal grouping of Christian Democratic parties within the European Community.//

25X1 [] //The West German parties, the only ones in both the People's Party and the European Democratic Union, are especially intent on developing a counterweight to the influence of the Socialist International in a popularly elected European Parliament. They believe the Parliament's first president chosen by directly elected deputies will have enormous prestige in Western Europe, and they want to deny that honor to Willy Brandt, chairman of West Germany's Social Democratic Party.//

25X1 [] //The International has had since 1957 an organization--now called the Socialist Confederation--for member parties of EC countries, and it remains the Community's largest transnational political grouping. Socialist divisions over EC integration and enlargement and over cooperation with Communist parties, however, have so far prevented agreement on a platform for the direct elections. All three groupings to the right of the Socialist Confederation have already published election manifestos or a policy declaration, and center-right parties generally have fared well in recent West European elections and surveys. []

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VIETNAM-CHINA: Refugee Problem

25X1 [] *//Vietnam recently broadcast a low-keyed but firm response to China's complaint that large numbers of overseas Chinese are fleeing from Vietnam to China. The refugee issue will add to the strains in relations already generated by the Cambodian-Vietnamese border conflict and by tension along their own frontiers.//*

25X1 [] Xuan Thuy, a member of the Vietnamese Central Committee, declared on Thursday that contrary to a Chinese-Vietnamese agreement some overseas Chinese had evaded border posts and crossed into China without permission. Thuy indicated that his government had asked China to "advise" Chinese in Vietnam

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[redacted]

to stop such "erroneous acts" and said they would be permitted to leave if they "openly" applied. His statement implicitly denies mistreatment and rejects Peking's complaint.

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[redacted] The Chinese decision to discuss the problem publicly and to refer to Vietnam by name, coupling this with a warning, suggests a significant increase in mutual hostility.

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[redacted] Tension along the Chinese-Vietnamese border apparently peaked in mid-February when, according to Vietnamese officials, small-scale firefights occurred. Some Chinese may have been killed or wounded. The Vietnamese reported that 30 of their personnel were killed, that they evacuated civilians from their side of the border, and that armed Chinese and Vietnamese troops confronted each other at the border.

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[redacted] Increased political warfare between Vietnam and China is likely in the near term, primarily in private channels but occasionally in public. Although the Chinese-Vietnamese border appears quiet now, more clashes are possible. It is unlikely, however, that such clashes would escalate into large-scale fighting. [redacted]

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Balaguer's Race

25X1 [] The Dominican Republic's three-term president, Joaquin Balaguer, is believed by many Dominican observers to be facing an extremely tight race in the 16 May presidential election, although we still regard him as the favorite. Balaguer may bolster his campaign by dumping his increasingly controversial running mate, whose selection has upset a powerful faction in the military. A victory by the left-of-center opposition probably would not result in any immediate policy changes inimical to US interests, but it would cause serious concern within the influential military establishment.

25X1 [] The opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party's candidate, Antonio Guzman, has been drawing surprisingly large and enthusiastic crowds, even in areas thought to be government strongholds. Guzman, a wealthy moderate, has effectively skirted controversial issues and radical policies identified with his party in the past. His well received campaign has convinced many that he has a good chance of pulling off an upset.

25X1 [] Party and military supporters are divided over Balaguer's vice presidential selection, Fernando Alvarez. He is closely identified with one of the military factions in Balaguer's camp.

25X1 [] It would be premature, however, to conclude that the wily Balaguer has become the underdog. Although 71 and nearly blind, he is still the country's most respected politician. From the outset, there has been a suspicion that he might eventually dump Alvarez and conclude a deal with his former vice president, Francisco Lora, with whom he has been dicker-ing.

25X1 [] If Balaguer is joined by Lora, who now heads another opposition party, it would not only give the impression of a unity slate but would go a long way toward quieting the present discontent within his party and the military. Balaguer could also turn to his incumbent vice president, who is acceptable to all sectors.

25X1 [] The recent poll, although it apparently reflects some slippage in Balaguer's position, was probably taken before the administration fully activated the government's machinery, financial resources, and highly placed partisan supporters. In

the last week, there has been a media blitz focusing on the remarkably energetic Balaguer featuring an unending series of inaugurations of public works with reams of campaign promises.

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[] Despite this, the opposition has thus far maintained its momentum and confidence. As in past elections, however, Balaguer is counting on rural peasants and apprehensive Dominicans who see the President as the guarantor of stability and who associate the opposition with the turmoil that led to the 1965 civil war. Use of that campaign theme--combined with a barrage of propaganda, patronage, and bribes--should boost Balaguer's stock in the closing days of the campaign. []

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BRIEFS

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Austria-Hungary

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[] Austria and Hungary have reportedly agreed to abolish visas beginning in 1979 for their nationals on one-day or week-end visits.

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[] Hungary apparently allowed Austrian tourists visa-free weekend travel at one time but rescinded that privilege because the Austrians overburdened Hungary's tourist facilities. The Hungarians may have changed their minds because their hard-currency earnings from tourism did not meet expectations last year.

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[] Visa-free travel between Austria and Hungary would not set a precedent. An Austrian official has said that his country already has visa-free tourist travel accords with Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. Czechoslovakia and Austria signed an agreement in November 1975 allowing visa-free business travel. The new accord leaves unaffected other requirements, such as currency regulations and exit permits, that Hungary uses to control the foreign travel of its citizens. []

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